2001, reaffirming that global terrorism is a threat to international peace and security and that co-operation to combat terrorism is becoming an imperative of contemporary reality. Both sides reiterated the view that combating terrorism must be on a comprehensive and long term basis and should be directed also at those supporting, harbouring and providing safe haven to terrorists. After Prime Minister's meeting with the US President, a Joint Statement was issued on 9th November 2001, at Washington D.C. In the statement both countries affirmed the need for a global war against terrorism and its sponsors everywhere in the world, and reiterated that there can be no justification for terrorism, which must be eradicated wherever it exists.

On India-Pakistan relations Prime Minister and EAM conveyed that while India is committed to establishing good neighbourly ties with Pakistan, it cannot be expected to ignore its vital security concerns. Pakistan must halt its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India. Government also conveyed that India was firmly resolved, and had the ability and stamina to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed.

Discussion with US President about ethnic cleansing in Bangladesh

1261. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter relating to ethnic cleansing in Bangladesh, which has resulted millions of Bangladeshi minorities homeless since new Government rose to power in Dhaka was taken up with the President of USA during his recent visit in USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the President of USA thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Safety arrangement for nuclear facilities

1262. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'The Stateman' Delhi edition, dated the 2nd November,

2001 regarding International Atomic Energy Agency, hoped that India, Pakistan, Israel and five major nuclear power States were urgently reviewing the safety of their facilities;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether it is a fact that arrangements for Pakistan's nuclear facilities are not safe and if so, whether Government have drawn attention of the internatioanl community to this effect?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. At a recent international symposium on nuclear safeguards, verification and security issues, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said so while expressing his concern at the heightened threat of nuclear terrorism.

(b) Government has taken adequate security measures for the protection of all vital nuclear installations in the country and these are constantly monitored in the wake of the 11th September 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States. Additional security measures to tighten and enhance the security of installations have been taken and due vigilance is being maintained.

(c) Government has not seen any assessments to this effect from any authoritative sources such as the IAEA.

Visit of German Chancellor to India

1263. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that German Chancellor had visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held and the agreements arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Mr. Gerhard Schroeder, Federal Chancellor of Germany paid an official visit to India from 28—31 October, 2001. The German Chancellor was accompanied by Mr. Otto Schily, Minister of Interior, Dr. Werner Mueller, Minister of Economics and a high-level official, business and media delegation.

(b) The Chancellor's programme included talks in New Delhi with the President, Vice-President and Prime Minister. The discussions covered a wide range of issues, including review of bilateral relations, regional and